

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-93 (cancelled)

94. (Currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
causing a coating dispenser to be moved, for the application of a coating substance, along
a path defined by a pattern of a frame structure of a stent such that the coating dispenser avoids
the application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures ~~or significantly
minimizes the amount of coating material that is applied in the space between the frame
structures.~~

95. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, additionally including causing
the coating dispenser and the stent to be positioned next to or in contact with each other.

96. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, additionally including applying
heat from the dispenser to the substance applied to the frame structure to solidify the substance
on the frame structure.

97. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, additionally including
coordinating the flow rate of the substance out from the dispenser to prevent any significant
overflow of the substance off of the frame structure.

98. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, wherein the substance comprises
a therapeutic substance.

99. (Original) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser comprises an ink-jet
printhead or a microinjection syringe.

100. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser comprises
a heat source to apply heat to the coating substance.

101. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 94, wherein the path is between a first position and a second position along a segment of the pattern of the frame structure.

102. (Original) The method of Claim 94, wherein the stent is maintained in a stationary position.

103. (Original) The method of Claim 94, wherein the stent is capable of moving independently of the dispenser.

104. (Original) The method of Claim 94, wherein the movement of the dispenser is controlled by a central processing unit.

105. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 94, wherein the movement of the dispenser is controlled by a central processing unit and a feedback system to provide information about the pattern of the frame structure, a characteristic of the frame structure, or the positioning of the dispenser relative to the frame structure to the central processing unit.

106. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, wherein the path along which the coating dispenser is moved is a non-linear path.

107. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is at an angle of less than 90 degrees to the surface of the frame structure.

108. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving in intervals of less than 0.1 inches.

109. (Original) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving in intervals of less than 0.001 inches.

110. (Currently amended) A manufacturing method, comprising:
(b) causing a stent to be moved such that the positioning of a dispenser, for the application of a coating substance, is maintained along a path defined by a pattern of a frame

structure of the stent such that the dispenser avoids application of the coating substance in a space between the frame structures or significantly minimizes the amount of coating material ~~that is applied in the space between the frame structure.~~

111. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, additionally including causing the stent and the coating dispenser to be positioned next to or in contact with each other.

112. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, additionally including applying heat from the dispenser to the substance to solidify the substance on the frame structure.

113. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, additionally including coordinating the flow rate of the substance out from the dispenser so as to prevent any significant overflow of the substance off of the frame structure.

114. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, wherein the substance comprises a therapeutic substance.

115. (Original) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser comprises an ink-jet printhead or a microinjection syringe.

116. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser comprises a heat source to apply heat to the coating substance.

117. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 110, wherein the path is between a first position and a second position along a segment of the pattern of the frame structure.

118. (Original) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser is held in a stationary position.

119. (Original) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser is capable of rotating about the circumference of the stent.

120. (Original) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser is capable of moving independently of the stent.

121. (Original) The method of Claim 110, wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a central processing unit.

122. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 110, wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a central processing unit and a feedback system to provide information about the pattern of the frame structure, a characteristic of the frame structure, or the positioning of the stent relative to the dispenser to the central processing unit.

123. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, wherein the path of the pattern of the frame structure is non-linear.

124. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser is at an angle of less than 90 degrees to the surface of the frame structure.

125. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 110, wherein the stent is ~~capable of being moved in intervals of less than 0.1 inches.~~

126. (Original) The method of Claim 110, wherein the stent is capable of being moved in intervals of less than 0.001 inches.

127. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer surface of the frame structure such that the method is configured to avoid application of the coating substance on a sidewall of the frame structure ~~or to minimize the amount of coating substance that is applied on a sidewall of the frame structure.~~

128. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, additionally comprising causing the stent to be moved in concert with the dispenser so as to maintain the positioning of the

dispenser along the path of the pattern of the frame structure and/or so as to maintain the dispenser next to or in contact with the stent.

129. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is maintained in close proximity to or in contact with the stent for the application of the coating substance.

130. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 94, wherein the stent is maintained in close proximity to or in contact with the dispenser for the application of the coating substance.

131. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer surface of the frame structure such that the method is configured to avoid application of the coating substance on a sidewall of the frame structure ~~or to minimize the amount of coating substance that is applied on a sidewall of the frame structure.~~

132. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, wherein the stent is maintained in close proximity to or in contact with the dispenser for the application of the coating substance.

133. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser is maintained in close proximity to or in contact with the stent for the application of the coating substance.

134. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 110, additionally comprising causing the dispenser to be moved in concert with the stent so as to maintain the positioning of the dispenser along the path of the pattern of the frame structure and/or so as to maintain the dispenser next to or in contact with the stent.

135. (New) The method of Claim 105, wherein the feedback system includes a video means for capturing a video image or a still frame image.

136. (New) The method of Claim 122, wherein the feedback system includes a video means for capturing a video image or a still frame image.

137. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the movement or operation of the dispenser is operated by a computer and means for providing information about the stent to the computer.

138. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the movement or operation of the dispenser is controlled by a computer and means for capturing an image or video images and converting the image(s) into data format.

139. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is in communication with means for obtaining information about the stent and for converting the information into data.

140. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is in communication with a computer for controlling the operation of the dispenser.

141. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is in communication with a means for controlling the delivery of the coating substance out from the dispenser.

142. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is in communication with a means for controlling the deposition patter of the coating substance out from the dispenser.

143. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the dispenser is in communication with a means for controlling the deposition pattern of the coating substance by controlling the motion of the dispenser.

144. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the movement of the stent is operated by a computer and means for providing information about the stent to the computer.

145. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the movement of the stent is controlled by a computer and means for capturing an image or video images and converting the image(s) into data format.

146. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser is in communication with means for obtaining information about the stent and for converting the information into data.

147. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the dispenser and the stent are in communication with a computer for controlling the operation of the coating deposition.

148. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied exclusively to an outer surface of the frame structure.

149. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance is applied exclusively to an outer surface of the frame structure.

150. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein a width of the coating substance applied to an outer surface of the frame structure is less than the width of the frame structure on which the coating substance is applied.

151. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein a width of the coating substance applied to an outer surface of the frame structure is less than the width of the frame structure on which the coating substance is applied.

152. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer surface of the frame structure and at least a segment of a side wall of the frame structure.

153. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance is applied to an outer surface of the frame structure and at least a segment of a side wall of the frame structure.

154. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied on a surface of the frame structure.

155. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance is applied on a coating deposited on the surface of the frame structure.

156. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance is applied on a surface of the frame structure.

157. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance is applied on a coating deposited on the surface of the frame structure.

158. (New) The method of Claim 94, wherein the coating substance comprises a polymer.

159. (New) The method of Claim 110, wherein the coating substance comprises a polymer.

160. (New) A manufacturing method, comprising causing a coating dispenser to move along a framework of a stent from a first position to a second position by a means including operation of a computer for depositing a coating material on the framework of the stent wherein the movement of the dispenser from the first position to the second position is dictated by a pattern of the framework of the stent such that the dispenser is moved along a pathway of the pattern of the framework between the first position and the second position.

161. (New) The method of Claim 160, additionally comprising causing the stent to move for adjusting the position of the stent with respect to the dispenser.

162. (New) The method of Claim 160, additionally comprising causing the stent to move in concert with the dispenser so as to maintain the dispenser within the pathway of the pattern of the framework.

163. (New) The method of Claim 160, wherein the pathway between the first position and the second position includes a bend or a curvature.

164. (New) The method of Claim 160, where the dispenser is in contact with the stent during movement along the pathway.

165. (New) The method of Claim 160, wherein the dispenser does not make contact with the stent during movement along the pathway.

166. (New) The method of Claim 160, wherein the coating material includes a polymer and/or a drug.

167. (New) The method of Claim 160, additionally comprising causing the stent to move so as to position or maintain the dispenser next to or in contact with the stent.

168. (New) The method of Claim 160, wherein the means additionally includes a dispenser motion control system in communication with the computer.

169. (New) The method of Claim 168, wherein the means additionally includes a dispenser driving component in communication with the dispenser motion control system.

170. (New) The method of Claim 160, wherein the means additionally includes a dispenser driving component in communication with the computer.

171. (New) The method of claim 160, wherein the means additionally includes a feedback system in communication with the computer.

172. (New) A manufacturing method, comprising
causing a stent to move from a first position to a second position by a means including
operation of a computer such that the positioning of a dispenser, for application of a coating
substance, is maintained along a framework of the stent and when the stent is moved the

dispenser stays within a pathway of a pattern of the framework between the first position and the second position.

173. (New) The method of Claim 172, additionally comprising causing the dispenser to move for adjusting the position of the dispenser with respect to the stent.

174. (New) The method of Claim 172, additionally comprising causing the dispenser to move in concert with the stent so as to maintain the dispenser within the pathway of the pattern of the framework.

175. (New) The method of Claim 172, wherein the pathway between the first position and the second position includes a bend or a curvature.

176. (New) The method of Claim 172, where the dispenser is in contact with the stent during movement along the pathway.

177. (New) The method of Claim 172, wherein the dispenser does not make contact with the stent during movement along the pathway.

178. (New) The method of Claim 172, wherein the coating material includes a polymer and/or a drug.

179. (New) The method of Claim 172, additionally comprising causing the dispenser to move so as to position or maintain the stent next to or in contact with the dispenser.

180. (New) The method of Claim 172, wherein the means additionally includes a stent motion control system in communication with the computer.

181. (New) The method of Claim 180, wherein the means additionally includes a stent driving component in communication with the stent motion control system.

182. (New) The method of Claim 172, wherein the means additionally includes a stent driving component in communication with the computer.

183. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein the means additionally includes a feedback system in communication with the computer.